

Appl. No. 10/737,306
Docket No. 9134R2
Amdt. dated May 22, 2006
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A fibrous web (1) comprising a first region (2) and at least one discrete integral second region (4), said fibrous web having a machine direction and a cross machine direction defining an MD-CD plane, the second region (4) having at least one portion being a discontinuity (16) exhibiting a linear orientation and defining a longitudinal axis (L) in the MD-CD plane and at least another portion being a deformation (6) comprising a plurality of tufted fibers (8, 18) integral with but extending from the first region (2).
2. (original) The fibrous web of Claim 1, wherein said web comprises a plurality of discrete integral second regions.
3. (original) The fibrous web of Claim 2, wherein said plurality of discrete integral second regions is uniformly distributed on said fibrous web.
4. (original) The fibrous web of Claim 1, wherein said fibrous web comprises a nonwoven web of substantially randomly oriented fibers.
5. (original) The fibrous web of Claim 2, wherein said fibers comprise materials selected from the group consisting of cellulose, rayon, cotton, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyester, and blends thereof.
6. (original) The fibrous web of Claim 2, wherein said fibers comprise bicomponent fibers.
7. (original) The fibrous web of Claim 2, wherein said fibers comprise non-round fibers.
8. (original) The fibrous web of Claim 1, wherein said web comprises at least 10 discrete integral second regions per square centimeter.
9. (original) The fibrous web of Claim 1, wherein a portion of said tufted fibers define an open void area internal to said second regions.

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10. (original) A wipe comprising said fibrous web of Claim 1.
11. (currently amended) A soft, tufted fibrous web (1) comprising substantially randomly-oriented fibers, said fibrous web having a machine direction and a cross machine direction defining an MD-CD plane, the web (1) comprising a first region (2) and a plurality of discrete second regions (4), each of the second regions (4) having at least one portion being a discontinuity (16) exhibiting a linear orientation and defining a longitudinal axis (L) in the MD-CD plane and at least another portion being a deformation (6), wherein the deformation (6) comprises fibers (8, 18) integral with but extending from first region (2) and fibers (11) neither integral with nor extending from first region (2).
12. (original) The fibrous web of Claim 11, wherein said fibers comprise materials selected from the group consisting of cellulose, rayon, cotton, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyester, and blends thereof.
13. (original) The fibrous web of Claim 12, wherein said fibers comprise bicomponent fibers.
14. (original) The fibrous web of Claim 12, wherein said fibers comprise non-round fibers.
15. (original) The fibrous web of Claim 11, wherein said web comprises at least 10 discrete integral second regions per square centimeter.
16. (currently amended) A wipe comprising said fibrous web of Claim 11.
17. (currently amended) A disposable absorbent article, said article having at least one component comprising a fibrous web (1), said fibrous web having a machine direction and a cross machine direction defining an MD-CD plane, said fibrous web comprising a first region (2) and a plurality of discrete integral second regions (4), the second regions (4) having at least one portion being a discontinuity (16) exhibiting a linear orientation and defining a longitudinal axis (L) in the MD-CD plane and at least another portion being a deformation (6) comprising a plurality of tufted fibers (8, 18) integral with but extending from the first region (2).

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18. (original) The article of Claim 17, wherein said article is selected from the group consisting of a catamenial article, a tampon, or a diaper.
19. (original) The article of Claim 17 wherein said fibrous web comprises a topsheet of said article.
20. (original) The article of Claim 17 wherein said fibrous web comprises an absorbent core of said article.
21. (currently amended) A multilayer fibrous web (1), said fibrous web having a machine direction and a cross machine direction defining an MD-CD plane, said fibrous web (1) comprising at least an upper layer and a lower layer, the multilayer fibrous web further comprising a first region (2) and a plurality of discrete integral second regions (4), the second regions (4) having at least one portion being a discontinuity (16) exhibiting a linear orientation and defining a longitudinal axis (L) in the MD-CD plane and at least another portion being a deformation (6) comprising a plurality of tufted fibers (8, 18) integral with but extending from the first region (2) wherein the deformation (6) comprises at least the upper layer.
22. (original) The fibrous web of Claim 21, wherein said upper and lower layers each comprise a nonwoven web of substantially randomly oriented fibers.
23. (original) The fibrous web of Claim 21, wherein said fibers comprise materials selected from the group consisting of cellulose, rayon, cotton, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyester, and blends thereof.
24. (currently amended) An absorbent core comprising a fibrous web, said fibrous web having a machine direction and a cross machine direction defining a MD-CD plane, said fibrous web comprising [[of]] randomly oriented fibers with respect to said MD-CD ~~an X-Y~~ plane, said core comprising a first surface and a second surface, a plurality of discrete regions of fiber reorientation at least on said first surface, each said discrete region having a linear orientation defining a longitudinal axis in said [[X-Y]] MD-CD plane[[,]] and comprising a plurality of fibers having portions reoriented in a direction substantially orthogonal to said X-Y plane.

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25. (original) The absorbent core of Claim 24 wherein said plurality of discrete regions are only on said first surface.
26. (original) The absorbent core of Claim 24 wherein said discrete regions comprise fibers extending from said first surface to said second surface.
27. (currently amended) An absorbent article comprising a topsheet, a backsheet, and an absorbent core disposed between the topsheet and the backsheet, the absorbent core comprising a fibrous web, said fibrous web having a machine direction and a cross machine direction defining a MD-CD plane, said fibrous web comprising ~~[[of]]~~ randomly oriented fibers with respect to ~~an X-Y~~ said MD-CD plane, said core comprising a first surface and a second surface, a plurality of discrete regions of fiber reorientation at least on said first surface, each said discrete region having a linear orientation defining a longitudinal axis in said ~~[[X-Y]]~~ MD-CD plane, and comprising a plurality of fibers having portions reoriented in a direction substantially orthogonal to said ~~[[X-Y]]~~ MD-CD plane.